

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

Please cancel claims 11-20 without prejudice. Please add new claims 21-30.

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A1 1. (ORIGINAL) A method of generating a file suitable for programming a programmable logic device, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for said programmable logic device;

(B) compressing said programming item to present a compressed item;

(C) storing said programming item in a programming field of said file in response to generating; and

(D) storing said compressed item in a non-programming field of said file in response to compressing.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing at least one of said parameters in a second non-programming field of said file.

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3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a dictionary for compressing prior to compressing said programming item.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 3, wherein said dictionary is generated independently of said compressing step.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 4, wherein said compressing is a Huffman encoding and said dictionary is a Huffman tree.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of encoding said compressed item from a binary representation to a symbol representation in response to compressing.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of mapping said symbol representation to a character representation in response to encoding.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an error detection item; and

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file.

A1 5 9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

extracting said error detection item from said file;

extracting said compressed item from said file;

5 decompressing said compressed item to present a backup programming item; and

validating said backup programming item with said error detection item.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said steps (A) through (D) are stored in a storage medium as a computer program that is readable and executable by a computer to generate said file.

11. - 20. (CANCELED)

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A2 21. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a plurality of delimiters around said compressed item in said non-programming field.

A2 22. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said file is compatible with a Joint Electron Device Engineering Council JESD3-C standard.

(12 a.) 23. (NEW) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of extracting said programming item from said programmable field of said file.

(13) 24. (NEW) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of replacing said programming item with said backup programming item in response to validating said backup programming item.

(17) 25. (NEW) The method according to claim 9, wherein said step of decompressing said compressed item comprises the sub-step of mapping said compressed item from a character representation to a symbol representation in response to extracting said compressed item.

(18) 26. (NEW) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of decompressing said compressed item further comprises the sub-step of decoding said compressed item from said symbol representation to a binary representation in response to mapping.

27. (NEW) The method according to claim 9, wherein said  
step of extracting said compressed item comprises the sub-step of  
parsing a plurality of first comments lines containing said  
compressed item from said file using a plurality of first  
5 delimiters.

28. (NEW) The method according to claim 27, wherein said  
step of extracting said error detection item comprises the sub-step  
of parsing at least one second comment line containing said error  
detection item from said file using a plurality of second  
5 delimiters.

29. (NEW) The method according to claim 9, further  
comprising the step of repairing said error detection item in  
response to said backup programming item failing said validating  
step.

30. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

means for generating a programming item from a plurality  
of parameters that define a program for a programmable logic  
device;

5 means for compressing said programming item to present a  
compressed item;

means for storing said programming item in a programming  
field of a file in response to generating; and

means for storing said compressed item in a non-  
10 programming field of said file in response to compressing.

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